

E. Baker
April 1829
21-5-29

THE
REPORT
OF THE
MIRAMICHI COMMITTEE

APPOINTED FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE
SUBSCRIPTIONS MADE FOR THE RELIEF
OF THE SUFFERERS BY THE

GREAT FIRE,
ON THE
7TH OCTOBER, 1825.

MIRAMICHI.

PRINTED BY JAMES A. PIERCE.

1829.

6033 - April 13/21

COMMITTEE.

ALEXANDER RANKIN,	THOMAS C. ALLAN,
JOHN FRASER,	WILLIAM ABRAMS,
THOMAS H. PETERS,	FRANCIS PEABODY,
JOHN A. STREET,	ALEX. FRASER, JUN.
CHRISTOPHER CLARKE,	JOHN CLARK,
JOSEPH CUNARD,	R. BLACKSTOCK,
	WILLIAM JOPLIN,

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TO THEIR EXCELLENCIES
GOVERNOR GENERAL THE EARL DALHOUSIE, K. C. B.
LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR JAMES KEMPT, K. C. B.
MAJOR-GENERAL SIR HOWARD DOUGLAS, BART.

AND

THE INHABITANTS OF THE
BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES, GENERALLY,
TO

THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES,
AND TO THE PEOPLE OF GREAT-BRITAIN,
THIS REPORT IS MOST RESPECTFULLY

SUBMITTED BY

THE COMMITTEE.

MIRAMICHI, NEW-BRUNSWICK.

At a meeting of the Committee, held at
the King's Arms, Chatham, on Wednesday,
2nd January, 1828,

Mr. CHRISTOPHER CLARKE, in the Chair.

PRESENT—Mr. ALEXANDER RANKIN, Mr. THOMAS
C. ALLAN, Mr. WILLIAM JOPLIN, Mr. ALEXANDER
FRASER, JUN. Mr. RICHARD BLACKSTOCK, Mr. J. A.
STREET, Mr. JOHN CLARKE, Mr. JOHN FRASER,
Mr. JOSEPH CUNARD, TREASURER.
Mr. ISAAC PALEY, SECRETARY.

Read, The Report of the proceedings of
this Committee.

Resolved—That the Report be received,
and printed accordingly.

(Signed,) CHRISTOPHER CLARKE,

Chairman.

REPORT.

If any thing could abate the regret which your Committee have had cause to indulge ever since they saw the impracticability of making an early report of their proceedings, it is the assurance, that adequate allowance for the nature of the work they have had to perform would never be denied them by any individual, whose munificence had contributed to the magnitude of their undertaking.

When your Committee assumed the sacred trust imposed on them by the Inhabitants of Miramichi,* and since rendered so important and interesting by the liberality of your Subscriptions, some preliminary steps had been taken by a Board of Relief hastily formed a few hours after the calamity, to alleviate, as far as available means would permit, the immediate wants and sufferings

* This Committee was appointed at a General Meeting of the Inhabitants, held in Chatham, on the 25th October, 1825.

of the people, and as these measures were subsequently recognized and confirmed by this body, it may be necessary to state some of the most material.

Mr. Joplin had been despatched, express, to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor with accounts of the dreadful event by which the extensive County of Northumberland* had been suddenly laid in ruins and its population exposed to the horrors of famine—a subscription had been opened among such of the inhabitants of the parishes of Chatham, Newcastle, and Nelson, as had not severely suffered by the fire—the sick and wounded had been placed under the care of proper persons—the dead interred; and such arrangements made for the comfort of the surviving sufferers, as the reduced quantity of food and raiment would allow—and lastly, about three hundred persons, principally of the labouring classes, had been provided with the means of going to the neighbouring ports.†

Ten Sub-Committees were appointed simultaneously with your Committee, to act under their directions, to report frequently the condition of their respective districts, and effectually to prevent the neglect of the des-

* The County of Northumberland embraces the whole tract of country watered by the Mersey and its branches.

† The greater part of these persons returned in the ensuing spring, and participated in the general relief.

titute in any part of the extensive scene of desolation.

From the reports of these auxiliaries your Committee were enabled also to prepare an account of the Loss, which after being corrected by a special committee* who visited each district, and individually examined every sufferer, was published early in 1826,—the following recapitulation exhibits the aggregate loss, sustained by the inhabitants of Miramichi, as contained in that statement.

PERSONS BURNT AND DROWNED	160
BUILDINGS DESTROYED	695
HEAD OF CATTLE DESTROYED	875
LOSS OF PROPERTY ESTIMATED AT	1,204,323
OF WHICH WAS INSURED	12,050
LEAVING A NET LOSS OF	1,192,273

From such data it was evident, that the multitude which was to be clothed and fed on the bounty of others would rapidly diminish the very scanty stock that had providentially escaped the general devastation—and, on the very eve of a winter which must consign half the population of the country to certain starvation, without extraordinary suc-

* William Joplin, Esq. and the Secretary.

cour, your Committee had cause to look with the most intense anxiety for any intelligence of immediate aid, from other parts.

Happily this frightful state of suspense was not of long duration. Letters were received by express from His Excellency Sir Howard Douglas; and others on the same day from the principal Merchants of Halifax. The former stating that His Excellency had despatched Mr. Joplin to Quebec, invested with authority to purchase provisions and clothing on account of the Province, to the extent of five or six thousand pounds; and the latter, that Rear Admiral Lake, had kindly directly H. M. S. Orestes, Capt. H. Litchfield, to proceed to Miramichi, with the first fruits of a subscription set on foot at Halifax, a few hours after the accounts of the fire had arrived, and also that His Excellency Sir James Kempt had ordered the Gov. Brig Chebucto to repair to Pictou for the purpose of proceeding to Miramichi if required.*

These exhilarating accounts were succeeded by a Messenger from the City of St. John, with Letters, announcing the shipment of a large subscription in provisions and clothing in the schooner Olive Branch, and the trans-

* This, however, was rendered unnecessary by the promptitude of Admiral Lake, in sending the Orestes, but the circumstance is mentioned as a proof of the zealous benevolence displayed by His Excellency on that occasion.

portation of a further supply by the Steamboat to Fredericton, and thence to be conveyed over land to Miramichi.

On the 26th October, His Excellency Sir Howard Douglas arrived at Miramichi, and while deeply affected by the ruins and misery of a Colony he had so recently seen rejoicing under the beaming rays of prosperity, was every where administering advice and consolation; cheering by his presence, the bereaved and afflicted, and animating by his example those whom Heaven had spared to comfort and assist them.

On Sunday the 30th October, H. M. S. Orestes anchored off Chatham—her presence, and the intelligence she brought that several loaded schooners would follow her, entirely dissipated those gloomy apprehensions which no philosophy could before subdue.

From this interesting period, every succeeding day afforded the most substantial proof of the unbounded sympathy of the sister Provinces,* for by the 5th November, the following vessels were discharging their cargoes at Miramichi, on account of the sufferers. Nancy, from Pictou, Albion, Active, and Elizabeth from Halifax, and Olive Branch from St. John, N. B. and these were immediately succeeded by the Harriette and Nancy, from Halifax, Monique and Jane, from the

* Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick.

Bay Chaleur, Angelique, from Antigonishe, James William, from Pictou, Two Sisters, from St. John, Newfoundland John and Eliza, from Lunenburg, and Spring Bird, from St. John, New-Brunswick.

While these blessings were pouring into Miramichi, the active and dignified benevolence of his Excellency the Earl Dalhousie, and of the Inhabitants of Quebec and Montreal was beautifully displayed in the rapidity with which the object of Mr. Joplin's mission was completed, for in forty days from the date of the fire, the cargo of the ship St. Lawrence, of 277 tons, was safely deposited in Miramichi, and the entire cost, including the freight, defrayed by the Government and People of the Canadas

The most spirited exertions were still kept up to throw in supplies, but winter soon precluded the possibility of any further transportation by water, and the Eliza-Ann, from Halifax, with bread and flour from the inhabitants of Boston, as also the Mary, from Charlotte-Town, P. E. Island, were compelled by the severity of the weather, to go into Richibucto, where their cargoes were landed, and subsequently conveyed to Miramichi.

From such abundant resources as were by this time placed at the disposal of your Committee, the appalling evils of want and starvation quickly receded, and although deprived of comforts and enjoyments, which in

too many instances time could never restore, the sufferers manifested great resignation to their lot, and a lively sense of Gratitude towards their benefactors.

Your Committee having thus far confined their very brief review of the subscriptions, to the order in which the succour arrived, have adverted only to those which were made in the British Provinces and their dependencies, but they feel a proud assurance their countrymen will acquit them of any undue preference, if they say the intelligence of what had been done in the United-States of America for the cause of humanity—gave birth to feelings more delightful and sublime, than any they had before experienced. The greatness of mind, and unmeasured liberality, displayed on this memorable occasion by the citizens of New-York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Eastport, are worthy of the highest praise and admiration.

During the long and inclement winter which followed so closely on the steps of the fire, (and to the ravages of which it was fitted to give a still keener edge,) your Committee continued to sit incessantly; and notwithstanding every tangible arrangement was made to shorten the discussions on the ever varying claims submitted for their consideration, and to give facility to their operations in the issue of supplies; the returning spring had smiled on the blackened forests, and tenantless farms of Northumberland, ere

they had so far completed the work, as to be justified in reducing their sittings to one day in the week. But at this late period they deem it as unnecessary as it would be uninteresting, to enter into a minute detail of their proceedings, during the distribution of the necessaries of life to nearly three thousand persons for a term of six months, and it is hoped there is as little occasion to state, that in this department of their duty, the real wants and privations of the sufferers constituted the grand criterion, by which they were governed.

It may be said, however, that if so much time was essential to the issue of food and raiment, how fared those who were last supplied? It is incumbent therefore on your Committee, to bring under your consideration, those circumstances which prevented more rapid progress, and the means adopted to avert their ill effects. Whenever there is cause to draw heavily upon the public bounty, to rescue from any great calamity the helpless and afflicted, such is the depravity of human nature, that the idle and undeserving are ever ready to seize the golden opportunity, to come in for a share of the loaves and fishes, and such are generally loudest in their claims. It often happens too, that when the spirit of a people is crushed by the pressure of unexpected want and privation, many will place entire dependence on that arm which was only ex-

tended for their temporary aid, while they allow their energies to evaporate in hopeless inactivity. The most diligent scrutiny was therefore indispensable to avoid the one, and an equal degree of caution and timely advice to avert the evils of the other, nevertheless, as it is better to err on the side of humanity, where error cannot be avoided, your Committee trust their deviations will appear on the liberal side of the question; for while few persons were ever sent empty handed away, care was taken where any suspicion or uncertainty rested on the propriety of the claim, to confine the apportionment to a sufficiency for the time that must elapse in obtaining more correct information on the case.

The ill consequences which would have resulted from a hasty and indiscriminate application of your charity must be obvious, and equally so, your Committee imagine, the time, patience and labour, inseparable, under circumstances of such extreme perplexity and confusion, from the line of conduct pursued.

When the Mariner is shipwrecked on a desert shore, and death appears in all its hideous forms, his only care while the tempest rages round him, is the preservation of his life, but when that is secured, the storm passed away, and the heavens once more propitious, how anxiously do his thoughts revert to his future destiny! and such was the

situation of these unfortunate persons. Confounded and bewildered by the prostration of all their hopes, the support of life was for some time the only care that could retain its hold on the mind; when, however, these early fears were dispelled by your merciful interposition, then arose the fearful forebodings for the future, the world was to be begun again by the houseless, friendless and penniless, and frequently by those who should rather have been preparing to leave it; their present wants had been supplied, their future ones appeared in fearful array. It may be imagined then, but not easily described, with what feelings of joy and gratitude, the result of the subscriptions in the mother country was received by these destitute people.

Wretched indeed must have been their lot, and vain the struggle with that destiny which had stripped them of every earthly advantage, or left them only in possession of a scorched and *vacant* piece of soil, without the secondary aid, which these funds, in conjunction with the American and other *money* subscriptions so opportunely and efficiently afforded. Such in short must have been the deplorable situation of hundreds of industrious families, had their dependance on your bounty terminated with the winter, that the mind shrinks from the contemplation of the melancholy picture, and turns instinctively to the better prospect which the opening

spring presented. But your Committee are aware that an opinion has prevailed, particularly in Great-Britain, that when once the more formidable effects of the fire had been subdued, the people might be quickly restored to a situation not much inferior to that which they enjoyed before their dreadful visitation. Perhaps it is not difficult to trace this error to its source. In Great-Britain the very nature of things must generally confine the aggregate of human misery to temporary privation and its consequences, and as the mind only draws its conclusions, but draws them insensibly, from things with which it is familiar, it is not at all surprising that an estimate formed upon such data as the occasional sufferings of the poorer classes in that country supply, should fail in its application to a situation of things in an infant colony, which forbid comparison, and defy description. It must be admitted, that the basis of every subscription set on foot for Miramichi, was the immediate and positive sufferings of the people, but if that people had not been encouraged by the distribution of occasional small sums of money to recommence their former pursuits—to return to their farms, to erect temporary habitations for their families, to till the ground again for a future subsistence—scarcely worse would have been their lot had they not survived the lamentable cause of their ruin!

Your Committee trust these remarks will not be understood as a proof of any insensibility of the exertions every where made in Great-Britain on behalf of the sufferers, for while the deep sympathy which the large contributions in that country proclaims, evinces to admiration, the enlarged view that was taken of the event, still, for the reasons which have been urged, an opinion might very naturally arise as the novelty subsided, that more money had been subscribed than the urgency of the case required. But your Committee are convinced, beyond the possibility of a doubt, that the money subscriptions were as essential to the ulterior salvation of the country, as was the succour so promptly thrown in from the neighbouring ports, when delay would have been immediate destruction.

Your Committee now beg permission to suspend their remarks while they proceed to shew an account of the property and money entrusted to their charge, but in making up that part thereof relative to the subscriptions in Provision and Clothing, a difficulty has occurred which no labour can now remove; the hurried manner in which so much property was collected and shipped, prevented in frequent instances, the usual invoice from accompanying the cargo, it is therefore impossible to go so far into the detail of such subscriptions in New-Brunswick, Nova-Scotia, and some other

parts; as under other circumstances would be indispensable, and if any errors should be detected, as doubtless will be the case, the Committee trust they will be imputed to the absence of such documents as are essential to a more perfect statement.

It may be necessary here to remark also, that, only the subscriptions made for Miramichi, without regard to the fires in the other parts of the Province, are included in the following Schedules.

Value of Provisions, Clothing, and other Stores, received from
Halifax, and other parts of the Province of Nova-Scotia.

HALIFAX			
Per H. M. S. Orestes	685	11	6
Schooner Active	350	14	6
" Albion	461	17	10
" Elizabeth	392	19	6
" Harriette	606	14	8
" Nancy	*70	0	0
		2,567	18 0
LUNENBURG.			
Per Schooner John & Eliza	318	3	0
Freight paid at Lunenburg	60	0	0
		378	3 0
PICTOU.			
Per Sch. James William	*200	0	0
" Nancy	*150	0	0
		350	0 0
ANTIGONISH.			
Per Schooner Angelique		*100	0 0
YARMOUTH.			
Stores sent to St. John and reshipped to Miramichi		*70	0 0
		*55	0 0
AMHERST.			
		3,501	1 0

*Wherever this mark occurs, no Invoice was received.

Ditto, ditto, from the City St. John, and other parts of the
Province of New-Brunswick.

City St. JOHN

Per Schr. Olive Branch	*1,700	0	0
" Spring Bird	*1,670	0	0
" Steam-Boat	*1,000	0	0

4,370 0 0

Deduct on account of Yarmouth
subscription. (See page 17)

70 0 0 4,300 0 0

St. ANDREWS

And St. Stephens

*350 0 0

RICHIBUCTO

103 11 8

BATHURST

And Caraquette

*40 0 0

SHEDIAC

And some other places in that
part of the Province

50 0 0

MIRAMICHI

Subscription at

603 0 0

5,446 11 8

Ditto, ditto, from the United-States.

BOSTON

*600 0 0

EASTPORT

93 7 4

693 7 4

Ditto, ditto, from Quebec, Montreal, and other parts of the
Canadas.

QUEBEC and MONTREAL

Subscriptions at

2,657 8 11

Grant from the Provincial

Legislature Lower Canada

2,500 0 0 5,157 8 11

The above was invested in the
Cargo and Freight of the ship
St. Lawrence.

Bay Chaleur, North side,

Paspibiac

146 15 8

Tracadagash

30 0 0

176 15 8

5,334 4 7

parts; as under other circumstances would be indispensable, and if any errors should be detected, as doubtless will be the case, the Committee trust they will be imputed to the absence of such documents as are essential to a more perfect statement.

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" Harriette	606	14	8	
" Nancy	*70	0	0	2,567 18 0

LUNENBURG.

Per Schooner John & Eliza	318	3	0	
Freight paid at Lunenburg	60	0	0	378 3 0

PICTOU.

Per Sch. James William	*200	0	0	
" Nancy	*150	0	0	350 0 0

ANTIGONISH.

Per Schooner Angelique				*100 0 0
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YARMOUTH.

Stores sent to St. John and				
reshipped to Miramichi				*70 0 0

AMHERST.

35 0 0

3,501 1 0

* Wherever this mark occurs, no Invoice was received.

Ditto, ditto, from the City St. John, and other parts of the
Province of New-Brunswick.

City St. JOHN

Per Schr. Olive Branch	*1,700	0	0
" Spring Bird	*1,670	0	0
" Steam-Boat	*1,000	0	0

4,370 0 0

Deduct on account of Yarmouth
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70 0 0 4,300 0 0

St. ANDREWS

And St. Stephens

*350 0 0

RICHIBUCTO

103 11 8

BATHURST

And Caraquette

*40 0 0

SHEDIAC

And some other places in that
part of the Province

50 0 0

MIRAMICHI

Subscription at

603 0 0

5,446 11 8

Ditto, ditto, from the United-States.

BOSTON

*600 0 0

EASTPORT

93 7 4 693 7 4

Ditto, ditto, from Quebec, Montreal, and other parts of the
Canadas.

QUEBEC and MONTREAL

Subscriptions at 2,657 8 11

Grant from the Provincial

Legislature Lower Canada

2,500 0 0 5,157 8 1

The above was invested in the
Cargo and Freight of the ship
St. Lawrence.

Bay Chaleur, North side,

Paspibiac

146 15 8

Tracadagash

30 0 0

176 15 8

5,334 4 7

Ditto, ditto, from Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island.

St. JOHN, Newfoundland,
Per Schooner Two Sisters 700 0 0

CHARLOTTE-TOWN, P. E. I.
Per Schooner Mary 150 0
Other parts 20 0 0 170 0 0

RECAPITULATION.

NOVA-SCOTIA	3,501 1 0
NEW-BRUNSWICK	5,440 11 8
THE CANADAS	5,334 4 7
NEWFOUNDLAND	700 0 0
P. EDWARD'S ISLAND	170 0 0
UNITED STATES	693 7 4
	<u>15,845 4 7</u>

An account of the Cash subscriptions received from the places enumerated in the preceding schedules.

NOVA-SCOTIA.		
Halifax	713 15 0	
Yarmouth	150 0 0	863 15 0
NEW-BRUNSWICK.		
Bathurst and Caraquette	8 19 0	
MIRAMICHI	257 19 3	266 17 3
		<u>1,130 12 3</u>

For all other Money subscriptions in Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick see the Commissioners' Report.

The CANADAS

All the money subscriptions in the Canadas, are accounted for in the Commissioners' Report, having been made on account of the Province generally, except the grant of 2500*l.* from the Legislature of Lower-Canada, which is noticed in the preceding page. (See also page 21.)

BRITISH SUBSCRIPTIONS.

LIVERPOOL.

First remittance	2000	0	0
2d do. for support of a School	200	0	0

 2,200 0 0

Add Exchange 11 1-9 per cent

244 8 10

2444 8 10

ABERDEEN

 920 0 0

ALLOA

93 9 0

ANNAN

 59 11 7

447 0 7

Add Exchange 11 1-9 per cent.

49 13 4

496 13 11

 2,941 2 9

The preceding Accounts embrace every subscription received by your Committee in Stores and Cash, direct from the donors, that is to say, they contain all the subscriptions made on behalf of the Miramichi sufferers,† without regard to the fires at Fredericton and in other parts of the Province.

The money subscriptions in London, Greenock, New-York, Boston, Philadelphia, East-

†Except the Glasgow, Bristol, N. Shields and Sunderland subscriptions which were placed in the hands of a Committee appointed at Glasgow, consisting in part of some of the Members of this body, the distribution of which was made under that appointment, and reported upon accordingly by communications addressed to the Committees at those places.

Glasgow

500 0 0

Bristol

500 0 0

North Shields

250 0 0

Sunderland, two remittances

246 13 1

Exchange

1,496 13 1

166 5 10

 1,662 18 11

port, Bermuda, Sherbroke, York, and Niagara, and the Grants by the Legislatures of Nova-Scotia, Upper-Canada, and New-Brunswick, as also all Subscriptions in this and the neighbouring Province, not in the preceding Schedules, were transmitted to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, and are therefore accounted for in the Report of the Commissioners,* appointed under an act of Assembly, of the 7th Geo. IV. "for ascertaining the losses occasioned by the great fires in New-Brunswick, in October, 1825."

The nett amount in Goods and Money received by your Committee, will therefore be as follows:—

Amount of Provisions, Clothing, &c. from the British Provinces, Per <i>recapitulation</i> (page 19.)	15,845 4 7
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Cash subscriptions in Nova-Scotia and New-Brunswick. (Page 19.)	1,130 12 8
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British Subscriptions. (Page 20.)	2,941 2 9
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This sum received from the Commissioners (appointed under the Provincial Act) in Bills, Specie, &c. being the amount allotted by them to the Miramichi Sufferers, of the Subscriptions transmitted to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, for his distribution,	17,779 8 11
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37,696 8 11

* The Commissioners' Final report was published at Fredericton 17th March, 1827.

The method your Committee have adopted in making up this report, and the brief space into which they have aimed to compress such remarks as the nature of their proceedings appeared to require, as well as the partial incorrectness, and want of detail in the accounts of the subscriptions may possibly operate against its reception, but your Committee are of opinion, that scarcely less objectionable would it be, if extending in some parts to minutia, in others it was necessarily confined for want of data, to the opposite extreme.

It was once the intention of your Committee to have added to their report a list of the persons who have been relieved by your bounty, with the amount of each individual's loss, and the proportionate part of the funds they have respectively received, but as so few of the sufferers, towards whose restoration the funds have been applied, are known to the donors, the utility of such an appendage could not be considered commensurate with its length and tediousness, a general and classified abstract thereof, is therefore substituted, exhibiting at one comprehensive view, all the material information, on the score of loss and relief.

GENERAL ABSTRACT of Loss and Relief exhibiting the total amount of each, in every class of Sufferers, &c.

Serial Number	Name, or claims in each class	Total number of individuals in each class	Total Amount		Amt. of loss on which no relief was given	Net Amount loss on which relief was given	Amount distributed in Goods.	Amount distributed in Money.	Total Amount of Relief.
			of Losses.	of Gains.					
1	27	76	3,105 3 0			3,105 3 0	595 0 2	1,227 11 6	1,822 11 8
2	128	262	9,849 0 0			9,849 0 0	1,053 12 7	1,845 12 4	2,899 4 11
3	292	1315	69,245 9 6	433 6 0		68,812 3 6	7,396 16 6	9,392 4 1	16,789 0 7
4	58	173	13,564 3 0	575 1 6		12,989 1 6	715 1 8	646 8 8	1,361 10 4
5	98	311	16,856 13 0	73 5 0		16,783 8 0	1,569 19 0	2,013 13 1	3,583 12 1
6	357	930	11,662 17 0			11,662 17 0	2,128 13 9	903 7 4	3,032 1 1
7	24	114	10,770 13 0			10,770 13 0	832 2 2	1,040 9 1	1,872 11 3
8	13	58	5,398 6 0	2,309 10 0		3,088 16 0	132 3 4	298 4 0	430 7 4
9	61	161	72,205 19 6	36,150 0 0		36,055 19 6	1,444 0 11	2,148 5 4	3,592 6 3
10		3400	241,654 4 0	39,541 2 6		172,117 1 6	15,867 10 1	19,515 15 5	35,383 5 6

CLASSIFICATION adopted in the preceding Abstract,

- 1st Class, Wounded, Aged, and Infirm Men.
- 2nd — Orphans, Widows, and Single Women.
- 3rd — Farmers.
- 4th — Lumberers.
- 5th — Mechanics.
- 6th — Labourers.
- 7th — Innkeepers.
- 8th — Professional Men.
- 9th — Merchants and Traders.

In the appropriation of the money part of so vast a fund of charity, your Committee early anticipated many difficulties and conflicting opinions, and without any determinate principle for their guidance, except the presumed intentions of the donors, there would possibly have been more cause for surprise if such had not been the case. Your intentions, so far as they could be collected from the numerous communications received by your Committee, were resolved into practical rules, and continually kept in view, but amidst claims so infinite and various, many have necessarily occupied their attention, which could be measured by no other standard than their own discretion, and they will not pretend to deny that had they a similar course to go over again (which Hea-

ven prevent) they see many imperfections that should be amended, and some errors that might be avoided, but if perfectibility were ever the lot of human nature, it could hardly be expected in the discharge of unprecedented duties, emanating from an event, altogether without example.

Your Committee have already directed your attention, to the general and important efforts of the Money Subscriptions, a few remarks on their particular application will be necessary.

The same feelings which prompted so many powerful injunctions from you, on behalf of the aged and infirm, and other destitute cases, dictated also to your Committee the superiority of such claims on their early and continued attention, and while it has been their paramount duty, to seek "the fatherless and the widows in their affliction," it has been also their delightful task to transfer to these unfortunate persons, and to all cases of unequivocal suffering—portions of your bounty equivalent to their necessities; and it affords your Committee much satisfaction to be able to add, that the Subscriptions received from Glasgow, Bristol, North Shields, and Sunderland, as noticed at page 20, were almost entirely applied to this description of persons, by the Committee in whose hands these funds were placed.

Next to the forlorn persons just adverted to, the farmers have always appeared to your

Committee to be most deserving of consideration, and they have accordingly been placed on as liberal a scale as a regard for justice towards the other classes would permit. The Farmers in this country are a class of people who can only accumulate their means by slow degrees, and by hard and incessant labour, and when the fruit of years of patient industry was instantly swept away, they had nearly the same laborious process to go over again as when they first entered the wilderness, but under circumstances of infinite disadvantage, arising from the very devastation which had caused their ruin.

The Lumberers, or timber manufacturers, dependant at all times on their actual labour for the means of subsistence, possessed, in the opinion of your Committee, but little claim for assistance, beyond what they held in common with all other sufferers, for food and raiment, and the slight deviations from this principle which the cash to their account presents, arises from the circumstance of part of their number being also engaged in other pursuits, and also to the presence of many destitute cases. These remarks, particularly the latter, will also apply to the fifth, sixth, and seventh classes, that is, the Mechanics, Labourers, and Inn-keepers, for in each and all of them, numerous cases are included of the most extreme degree of destitution, but cases, at the same time, unsuited to a place

in the first and second classes, by their freedom from the peculiar circumstances which characterize those classes

From among the persons comprehended in the eighth class, some two or three claims came under the consideration of your Committee, which to have rejected, would have manifested great injustice, and still greater insensibility towards the situation of individuals, who under ordinary privation would have shrunk from eleemosynary aid.

The utter impossibility of drawing a correct line of distinction between the Merchants, and Shopkeepers or Traders, blended as they are in so many instances, without injury to the feelings of one or both classes, induced your Committee to combine them in one, but this solicitude for the feelings of others, has, in some degree, led to a partial sacrifice of their own. From the assistance which your Committee deemed it their duty to impart to the latter, reports have been spread, that much money was devoted to the purpose of remunerating *Merchants* losses. On the contrary, *before* the result of the distant, or money subscriptions was known, and while reports were in circulation that they would equal the amount of the loss, and which, by an unaccountable infatuation, was very generally believed, most of the extensive Mercantile Houses, together with several other respectable persons that had suffered severely by the fire, had declared their inten-

tion of not participating in the slightest degree in the funds raised for the relief of the sufferers, and consequently did not. And further, the occasional reports which your Committee made to His Excellency Sir Howard Douglas, before any of the monies were placed in their hands, declare at once the view of this subject they then entertained, and the line of conduct they have since pursued. But the situation of men possessed of very slender means, and those means invested in property which fell an easy prey to the devouring element, with the more or less afflicting circumstances by which such losses were in almost every instance accompanied, was sufficiently deplorable to command an extraordinary degree of sympathy. And when that convulsion in the commercial world which followed so rapidly our great calamity, is taken into consideration, the necessities of such men, at such a time, stripped at once of their stock, and of their credit to replace it, and consequently of the means of subsistence, become still more conspicuous, and it is hoped sufficiently justify the expenditure of that part of your funds appropriated to their relief.

Your Committee have nothing more to add on the subject of their application of the money subscriptions, than the annexed general cash account. The contingent expenses, it is hoped will be considered moderate when compared with the magnitude

of the undertaking It may at all events be confidently said, that no exertions have been spared to make them so.

By this account a balance appears in the Treasurer's hands of two hundred and eighty three pounds, eighteen shillings, and four pence, New-Brunswick currency, but this sum includes the grant of two hundred pounds sterling,* from Liverpool, towards the support of a charity school, which has not yet been appropriated in consequence of the resolutions of the Liverpool Committee, passed on that occasion, not having yet come to hand.

* Two hundred and forty pounds currency, which includes a premium on the Bill.

Dr. CASH ACCOUNT. Cr.

To amount paid the Sufferers, (page 23)	19	515	15	5	By Cash subscriptions in Nova-Scotia and } New-Brunswick } British Subscriptions } Cash from the Commissioners } Premium on Bills }	1,130	12	8
Sundry accounts incurred by the board } of relief, see page 5 }	299	11	2			2,941	2	9
Paid for 100 barrels Mackarel*	158	5	4			17,779	8	11
Freight per sundry vessels	217	17	11			341	1	11
Pilotage for do	21	0	4					
Labour discharging and pitting potatoes, &c.	114	14	0					
Paid for boards for Le-dlow sufferers*	300	0	0					
Paid for boards from Antigoniskie*	43	5	9					
Paid for Hay Seed*	400	0	0					
Expense conveying specie from St. John	65	12	4					
Gratuities to Medical Gentlemen for attending sufferers	50	0	0					
Expenses while taking account of losses	24	19	6					
Rent of Stores	96	9	10					
Storekeeper and his Assistants salaries	249	8	1					
Assistant Secretary's Salary	166	6	8					
Loss by reduction in value of Dollars	9	5	8					
Committee Room, and other incidental expense.	61	2	6					
Printing, Postages, Stationary, &c.	114	13	7					
Balance in the Treasurer's hands	283	18	2					
	22,192	6	3			22,192	6	3

* Purchased by the Committee for the use of the Sufferers.

NOTE.—The Books of Accounts and Records of the Committee, together with all other papers and documents relating to the distribution of the funds, are deposited in the Register Office in the County of Northumberland, subject at all times to the inspection of such persons as may desire further or more particular information than is afforded by the foregoing Report.

ADDENDA.

28th April, 1828.

Since the foregoing Report was made, His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor has put at the disposal of the Committee one thousand pounds currency, of the money remaining in his hands for distribution: five hundred pounds of which, the Committee have already appropriated in the purchase of seeds, for the use of the sufferers for the present season, and the residue will be distributed as soon as possible among the most needy of the suffering classes.

Errata.—In the note at the foot of page 9, for the sister Provinces Nova-Scotia and New Brunswick, read Nova Scotia and Canada.
In the cash account, 4th line, for 100 barrels read 141 barrels.